



# SHARP News

## NEHC Stands Up Sexual Health and Responsibility Program

The Sexual Health and Responsibility Program (SHARP) is an element of the Health Promotion and Medical Management Directorate of the Navy Environmental Health Center (NEHC) located in Norfolk Virginia. SHARP began full operation in the second quarter of fiscal year 1999. The program was developed as part of the transfer of the Navy's HIV Education Program from NNMC Bethesda to NEHC.

The primary goal of SHARP is ***reduction in the occurrence of HIV, STDs and other unplanned consequences associated with the sexual behavior of military personnel and other DoD beneficiaries.***

### The Objectives are:

- ★ Provide information and education programs on the prevention of HIV-STDs.
- ★ Implement programs that promote positive behavior changes and responsible decision-making regarding human sexuality.
- ★ Design programs targeting those persons whose behavior puts them at high risk of infection, such as patients in STD clinic patients, persons referred to drug and alcohol treatment programs, and family planning clinic patients.
- ★ Provide programs for health-care personnel to assess patients' understanding and risk behaviors and effectively communicate this information to patients.

### Navy HIV-STD Education Requirements:

HIV instruction for active duty Navy and Marine Corps personnel is required annually. Other groups identified at increased risk of exposure to HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases (STD) will receive additional focused counseling by appropriate professionals. HIV instruction will also be available to civilian employees of the government, as a minimum to new employees during orientation. (SECNAV NOTICE 5300, SECNAVINST 5300.30C)

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Sexual Health and Responsibility Program (SHARP)

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***“Chart a Safe Course”***